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FEB 02 2004

Confirmation No. 3813

TC 1700

Appl. No. : 10/036,345
Applicant : Michael James Wardell
Filed : January 4, 2002
TC/A.U. : 1732
Examiner : Michael I Poe
Docket No. :
Customer No. :

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office action of October 27, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Detailed Description begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Summary of Invention begin on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claim are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 6 of this paper.

Amendments to Abstract of the disclosure are reflected on page 9 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

Amendments to the Summary of Invention:

Please replace the paragraph starting with the 2nd paragraph of page 2 and ending with the 1st paragraph of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Summary of Invention: (Currently amended) This new design is how the product is manufactured and the face is imprinted. This new process makes the product in the face up position with the face or relief being stamped into the product. The process includes using a horizontal core to put a dovetail slot into the back of the product. The dovetail is used for placing a piece of plastic or steel that is slid into the slot to anchor the base course into the ground. On the next layers it is used to either offset the next course or attach it to the previous course. The horizontal cores are also used to put a chamfer on the back of the Retaining Wall block, which allows the product to be placed in a radius design. The chamfer will allow walls to be placed at almost any radius desired. This concept is totally new to the manufacture of concrete retaining wall products because it makes the relief or rock face design with the stripper shoes and is not split afterwards. The use of a horizontal core to put a chamfer on the back of the block for radius walls is also new. By manufacturing the product in this new way the dimensions of the product are exact and consistent cycle to cycle. Any variation in the height of the product would show up on the~~

~~face of the unit and not make any difference to the integrity of the wall. The design of the units is also unique to retaining wall products.~~ This new design is how the product is manufactured and the face is imprinted. This new process makes the product in the face up position with the face or relief being stamped into the product. This concept is totally new to the manufacture of concrete retaining wall products because it makes the relief or rock face design with the stripper shoes and is not split afterwards. By manufacturing the product in this new way the dimensions of the product are exact and consistent cycle to cycle. Any variation in the height of the product would show up on the face of the unit and not make any difference to the integrity of the wall. The design of the units is also unique to retaining wall products.

Amendments to the Detailed Description:

Please replace the paragraph starting with the 2nd paragraph on page 6 and ending with the 1st paragraph on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Detailed Description: (Currently amended)

~~My design incorporates the use of a horizontal core puller to put a taper on the ends of the block and a dovetail slot on the back or pallet side of the mold. A horizontal core puller is a piece of equipment that attaches to the front, side or back of a concrete products machine and utilizes fingers or tines that are inserted into a mold to make a slot, groove or hole in the product being manufactured. These tines are inserted mechanically through holes in the side of the mold before the material is put into the mold, they stay in position until the product is finished molding and then are pulled backwards from the mold prior to stripping the product. The use of the core puller allows any product to be manufactured at any height desired. Retaining wall products need to be at least six (6) inches deep, from face to back to be of any use. This design allows for the manufacture of these products from six (6) to twelve (12) inches deep from face to back. Numerous designs can be impressed into the face of the retaining wall products using this technique. Retaining wall products have to be easily made and to be able to be laid in a radius to be of any~~

significant value. The existing process does not allow for the face to be impressed into the product. The existing process also depends on the precision of the machine to make the product at a consistent height, with my design the height of the product is determined by the precision of the mold, which is manufactured to tolerances of +/- .003. The products can be made fast and economically using this process. Retaining wall products are dry stacked as opposed to using mortar between the joints. The tolerances have to be very close for the heights of the units. My design allows for these closer tolerances.